

Brackley Rural District Council



Annual Reports

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

For the year 1945

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945

MR CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for the year 1945.

The Vital Statistics may be regarded as satisfactory. The Birth Rate of 19.2 per 1,000 of the population, although 1.3 less than 1944, is higher than that for England and Wales of 16.1. The Death Rate of 11.9 contrasts with a rate of 13.9 for 1944. Cardio-Vascular Disease and Cancer were again the outstanding causes of death.

There was an increase in the incidence of Zymotic Diseases during the year, due to a wave of Measles during the months of February to May. There was one case of Diphtheria in a female aged 26, who had not been immunised.

It is pleasing to note that the Council are proceeding with a Regional Water Supply for the district and also with a complete sewerage and sewage disposal scheme. It is to be hoped that the two schemes will progress simultaneously with the housing programme.

The Rural Housing Survey was commenced in May during the year under review and the number of houses inspected up to the 31st December, 1945, was 567 and have been classified as follows, viz. :—

16	Category	1	(i.e., houses in all respects fit for human habitation).
92	Category	2	(i.e., houses where minor defects exist which can be remedied either by informal action or action under the Public Health Act, 1936).
238	Category	3	(i.e., houses not in all respects fit for human habitation but which are capable of being made fit at a reasonable cost).

221 Category 5 (i.e., houses which are unfit for human habitation and incapable of being made fit at a reasonable cost).

The Staff of the Health Department has increased by the appointment of Mr. F. Mayhew as Additional Sanitary Inspector. His work, up to the present time, has been concerned in the main with the Rural Housing Survey, but with the increasing work of the Department it has been necessary for Mr. Mayhew to perform many of the numerous other duties attached to the office of Sanitary Inspector.

The work of the Health Department has been carried out very satisfactorily under the supervision of your Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. E. Turbitt, to whom I must convey my especial thanks.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. JONES,

Public Health Department,

Medical Officer of Health.

Rural District Council Offices,

Brackley,

Northants.

October, 1946.

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council :

Lt. Col. J. L. Fisher, C.M.G., D.S.O., J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman : F. T. Kielsen, Esq.

Health Committee :

J. N. Gibbard, Esq. (Chairman),

Mrs. M. E. Johnson, Mrs. N. N. Kekewich, Mrs. F. A. Kirtland,

Mrs. H. M. Norris, H. S. Watson, Esq., R. Barrett, Esq.,

G. W. Wood, Esq., L. Watson, Esq., T. Cottrell-Dormer, Esq.,

Rev. H. J. Boyd, Lt.-Gen. Sir B. N. Sergison-Brooke.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio Members of the Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

OFFICERS.

C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.San.I., D.P.H.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

W. E. TURBITT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

F. MAYHEW, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (commenced duties 17.4.45).

Sanitary Inspector.

Miss D. W. HOWELL.

Joint Clerk to the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

SECTION A.

Social Conditions of Area and Statistics.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	58,132
Resident Population (estimated)	...	...	...	...	9,100
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2,829
Rateable Value 31/12/45	...	...	...	...	£35,231
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 31/3/46	...	...	...	...	£136.13.0

The district is mainly rural in character and, as in former years, the main industry is agriculture. The presence of the Aluminium Works in the adjoining town of Banbury, Oxfordshire, has been the cause of a slight immigration into the western part of the district.

Vital Statistics.

The following extract from the Vital Statistics of the year relates to the births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar.

	Total		Male		Female		Brackley Rural District Council	N'ton : C.C.	Engd. & Wales
Live Births.	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 1945 19.2 1944 20.5	—	16.1
Legitimate	165	179	109	109	73	70			
Illegitimate	10	16	5	10	5	6			
Total ..	175	195	114	119	78	76			
Still Births.	4	2	3	1	1	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 22.3 20.05	—	0.50 per 1,000 civilian population
Legitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Total ..	4	2	3	1	1	1			
Death Rate.	—	—	—	—	—	—	Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 11.9 13.9	—	11.4
Total ...	109	133	58	60	51	73			
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.	—	—	—	—	—	—	All infants per 1000 live births 17.14	—	46
Legitimate	3	5	2	3	1	2			
Illegitimate	—	2	—	—	—	2			
Total ..	3	7	2	3	1	4			

Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births ... 35.9
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 24.42
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 125

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	}	Brackley R.D.C. Northamptonshire C.C.
Other Puerperal causes		Nil. —

Deaths from :

	Total	Males	Females
Cancer (all ages)	24	13	11†
Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	—	—

The registered causes of death were :—

Causes of Death.				Males	Females	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria ...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory ...	...	...	2	4	6†
7.	Tuberculosis—Other Forms ...	...	...	1	1	2†
8.	Syphilitic Diseases ...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Influenza ...	...	...	—	—	—*
10.	Measles ...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis: Polio Encephalitis...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis ...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	...	...	1	—	1nc
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	...	3	1	4†
15.	Cancer of Breast ...	...	...	1	6	7†
16.	Cancer of all other sites ...	...	...	8	4	12nc
17.	Diabetis ...	...	...	—	—	—*
18.	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	...	...	3	3	6*
19.	Heart Disease ...	...	...	14	12	26*
20.	Other Diseases of Circulation ...	...	...	2	1	3nc
21.	Bronchitis ...	...	...	5	3	8†
22.	Pneumonia ...	...	...	1	1	2nc
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	2	—	2*
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	...	...	—	—	—*
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis ...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other digestive Disorders ...	...	...	—	3	3nc
28.	Nephritis ...	...	...	1	—	1*
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes ...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth ...	...	...	—	—	—*
32.	Congenital Malformation : Birth Injury :					
	Infantile Disorders ...			2	1	3nc
33.	Suicide ...	...	...	1	—	1nc
34.	Road Traffic Accidents ...	...	...	1	2	3*
35.	Other Violent Causes ...	...	...	2	—	2*
36.	All Other Causes ...	...	...	9	10	19*
				59	52	111

† Denotes an increase on 1944 figures.

* Denotes a decrease on 1944 figures.

nc Denotes no change from 1944 figures.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the bacteriological analysis of water samples and other specimens submitted from this district.

Samples of milk are taken by the Sanitary Inspector and these are examined in the laboratory section of the County Health Department.

(b) DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

A supply of antitoxin is maintained at the Council Offices in accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria Antitoxin (Outside London) Order, 1910, and is available free of charge to all Medical Practitioners for use in cases of emergency in the rural district.

(c) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Council have an agreement with the Joint Hospital Board for their ambulance, which is stationed at Staverton Isolation Hospital, to be sent to any part of the district in order to transport patients suffering from infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital. A Nurse accompanies the ambulance.

(d) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Under an agreement between the County Council and the County Nursing Association, the services of a nurse may be obtained for the treatment of patients suffering from puerperal fever, puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, whooping cough, diarrhoea in young children, poliomyelitis, measles, and cerebro spinal fever, but owing to the acute shortage of nursing staff, it would almost be impossible to fulfil this agreement.

(e) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Infant Welfare—Brackley.	}	Organised by County Council.
Orthopædic Clinic.		
Vision Clinic.		

Ante-Natal Clinic, Middleton Cheney.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of District.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Consequent upon the receipt of a report by Consulting Engineers containing outline schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal affecting eighteen parishes in the Rural District, at a total estimated cost of £161,786, the Council submitted the proposals to the Northamptonshire County Council and the Ministry of Health in April. By the end of the year the Council had received approval of the proposals in principle from the County Council; the Minister of Health had indicated that he would be prepared to hold a Public Inquiry into the Council's whole scheme, on an outline basis, and the Engineers and other Departments concerned had commenced to prepare the data necessary for that purpose.

Closet Accommodation.

Mostly, this will remain unsatisfactory until the district is served with a new system of sewerage and sewage disposal, together with a mains water supply when the provision of water closets will be practicable.

Water Supply.

Again, as in previous years, the sampling of various water supplies in the district indicates that much of the water is bad. There is always the risk that drinking bad water may be the cause of a waterborne infection amongst the consumers.

During the year the Council had under consideration two regional schemes for providing a supply of water to the Council's area. The first scheme, originally mooted in January, 1943, was for the purchase of water in bulk from the Bucks. Water Board for distribution by the Council themselves; the second scheme, which was first put forward in April, 1944, was for the Oxford Corporation to enlarge their limits of supply to take in North Oxfordshire, Brackley Rural District and Brackley Borough. As neither of the Undertakings was able to provide from their existing resources, the large volume of additional water required, both schemes were dependant upon the Undertakers obtaining powers to increase their sources of supply.

In December, 1945, it was made clear to the Council that the Ministry of Health and the Northamptonshire County Council did not favour the Council's participation in the Oxford Scheme, and it was decided that the negotiations with the Bucks. Water Board for a bulk supply of water should proceed.

Messrs. Binnie, Deacon, and Gourley, Consulting Engineers, who were retained by the Council in 1943 for the purpose of advising with regard to water supplies, were instructed to prepare a scheme for the distribution throughout the Brackley Rural District of the water to be obtained from the Bucks. Water Board.

The Bucks. Water Board prepared a scheme for abstracting water from the river Great Ouse to ensure their water resources being sufficient to meet the requirements of local Authorities who have asked the Board for Bulk Supplies. The Board is asking the Minister of Health's approval to the scheme.

The various parishes or districts where sampling took place, the number of samples taken from each parish or district, and the results of the samples is as follows, viz.:—

Parish or District	Number taken	Result of Examination		
		Good	Suspicious	Bad
Aynho	8	7	—	1
Chacombe	5	4	—	1
Chipping Warden	1	1	—	—
Culworth	3	—	—	3
Evenley	7	5	—	2
Eydon	7	7	—	—
Farthinghoe	2	1	—	1
Greatworth	1	—	—	1
Helmdon	9	4	1	4
Hinton-in-Hedges	1	1	—	—
Kings Sutton	2	1	—	1
Midd. Cheney	1	—	—	1
Moreton Pinkney	1	—	—	1
Newbottle	6	4	1	1
Radstone	8	2	1	5
Thenford	1	—	—	1
Total	63	37	3	23

Summarised results of tests are as under, viz.:—

Good	37	(59%)
Suspicious	3	(5%)
Bad	23	(36%)

The samples are tested at the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, and I think it may be of interest to set forth the detailed remarks, made by the Analyst, concerning these water samples, viz.:—

No.	Parish or District	Probable No. of B.Coli per 100 ml.	Result of Sample	Remarks of Analyst.
1.	Aynho	0	Good	This water falls into Class 1 of Ministry of Health's grading
2.	Aynho	0	Good	ditto
3.	Aynho	0	Good	ditto
4.	Aynho	0	Good	ditto
5.	Aynho	0	Good	ditto
6.	Aynho	0	Good	ditto
7.	Aynho	0	Good	ditto
8.	Aynho	More than 180	Bad	This water is grossly contaminated and is quite unfit for domestic use.
9.	Chacombe	0	Good	This water falls into Class 1 of Ministry of Health's grading
10.	Chacombe	0	Good	ditto
11.	Chacombe	0	Good	ditto
12.	Chacombe	0	Good	ditto
13.	Chacombe	At least 180	Bad	This water is grossly contaminated and is unfit for domestic use in the raw state.
14.	Chip. Warden	0	Good	This water falls into Class 1 of Ministry of Health's grading
15.	Culworth	At least 180	Bad	This water is grossly contaminated and is unfit for domestic use in the raw state.
16.	Culworth	At least 180	Bad	This water is grossly contaminated and is unfit for domestic use.
17.	Culworth	More than 180	Bad	This water is grossly contaminated and is unfit for domestic use in the raw state.
18.	Evenley	At least 180	Bad	ditto
19.	Evenley	At least 180	Bad	This water is grossly contaminated and is unfit for domestic use. The chlorination is obviously inefficient.
20.	Evenley	0	Good	This water falls into Class 1 of Ministry of Health's grading
21.	Evenley	0	Good	ditto

No.	Parish or District	Probable No. of B.Coli per 100 ml.	Result of Sample	Remarks of Analyst.
22.	Evenley	0	Good	This water falls into Class 1 of Ministry of Health's grading
23.	Evenley	0	Good	ditto
24.	Evenley	0	Good	ditto
25.	Eydon	0	Good	ditto
26.	Eydon	0	Good	ditto
27.	Eydon	0	Good	ditto
28.	Eydon	0	Good	ditto
29.	Eydon	0	Good	ditto
30.	Eydon	0	Good	ditto
31.	Eydon	0	Good	ditto
32.	Farthinghoe	0	Good	ditto
33.	Farthinghoe	At least 180	Bad	This water is grossly contam- inated and is unfit for domestic use in the raw state.
34.	Greatworth	At least 180	Bad	This water is grossly contam- inated and is quite unfit for domestic or dairy use in the raw state.
35.	Helmdon (Astwell)	At least 180	Bad	This water is grossly contam- inated and is unfit for domestic use in the raw state.
36.	Helmdon (Astwell)	3	Suspicious	This sample of water is suspi- cious. Please repeat.
37.	Helmdon (Astwell)	0	Good	This water falls into Class 1 of Ministry of Health's grading
38.	Helmdon	0	Good	ditto
39.	Helmdon	0	Good	ditto
40.	Helmdon	0	Good	ditto
41.	Helmdon	50	Bad	This water is contaminated and unfit for domestic use.
42.	Helmdon	160	Bad	ditto
43.	Helmdon	35	Bad	This water is contaminated with coliform organisms of faecal origin and is not fit for human consumption.
44.	Hinton-in- the-Hedges	0	Good	This water falls into Class 1 of Ministry of Health's grading
45.	Kings Sutton	0	Good	ditto
46.	Kings Sutton	At least 180	Bad	This water is grossly contam- inated and is not fit for drink- ing or domestic use.
47.	Midd. Cheney	More than 180	Bad	This water is grossly contam- inated and is unfit for domestic use in the raw state.

No.	Parish or District	Probable No. of B.Coli per 100 ml.	Result of Sample	Remarks of Analyst.
48.	M. Pinkney	At least 180	Bad	This water is grossly contaminated and is unfit for domestic use in the raw state.
49.	Newbottle	0	Good	This water falls into Class 1 of Ministry of Health's grading
50.	Newbottle	0	Good	ditto
51.	Newbottle	0	Good	ditto
52.	Newbottle	0	Good	ditto
53.	Newbottle	170	Bad	This water is heavily contaminated with coliform organisms half of which are of faecal origin.
54.	Newbottle	3	Suspicious	This water is equivalent to Class 3 of the Min. of Health's grading. None of the contamination is due to organisms of excretal origin.
55.	Radstone	20	Bad	This water shows evidence of heavy contamination, part of which is due to organisms of faecal origin. The water is unfit for domestic use and for dairy use.
56.	Radstone	More than 180	Bad	This water is grossly contaminated and is unfit for domestic use in the raw state.
57.	Radstone	More than 180	Bad	ditto
58.	Radstone	More than 180	Bad	ditto
59.	Radstone	More than 180	Bad	ditto
60.	Radstone	0	Good	This water falls into Class 1 of Ministry of Health's grading
61.	Radstone	3	Suspicious	This water shows evidence of slight contamination, which is probably not due to organisms of faecal origin. This water falls into Class 3 of the Ministry of Health's grading and must be regarded as suspicious.
62.	Radstone	0	Good	Very satisfactory.
63.	Thenford	At least 180	Bad	This water is heavily contaminated and is in an unfit state for drinking and domestic purposes.

Public Cleansing.

A systematic collection of house refuse is in operation throughout the district.

The Parishes are served as follows :—

Village.	Date of Collection.	Refuse Tip.
King's Sutton	Alternate Fridays	Croughton
Aynho	" " "	Croughton
Middleton Cheney	First Tuesday in each Month	Greatworth
Chacombe	" " "	"
Chipping Warden	" Wednesday "	Moreton Pinkney
Aston-le-Walls	" Monday "	"
Boddingtons	" " "	"
Eydon	Second Monday "	"
Thenford	Second Tuesday "	Greatworth
Thorpe Mandeville	" " "	"
Marston	" " "	"
St. Lawrence	" " "	"
Culworth	First Wednesday "	Moreton Pinkney
Moreton Pinkney	Second Monday "	"
Greatworth	" " "	Greatworth
Sulgrave	" Wednesday "	"
Helmdon	" " "	"
Radstone	Second Monday "	"
Charlton	Third Tuesday "	Croughton
Croughton	" " "	"
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	" Wednesday "	"
Evenley	" " "	"
Whitfield	" " "	Greatworth
Syresham	" " "	"
Farthinghoe	" " "	"

Very few metal sanitary bins are being used in the district for the storage of household refuse.

I am glad the Council have placed an order for a new Bedford-Eagle refuse collection vehicle.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A total of 160 complaints were received during the year and promptly investigated. The number of complaints lodged at the Public Health Department increases annually, which may be considered as an encouraging sign that the residents in the district are availing themselves of the help which can be given them by the Local Authority.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 1965 inspections.

106 Preliminary and 19 Statutory Notices were served. Of the number of Statutory Notices 17 were complied with during the year and it is expected that the outstanding notices will be complied with in due course.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits to Premises during 1945.

Inspections—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	548
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	6
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	271
Inspections—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	366
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	100
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	462
Verbal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	160
Food Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	42
Notices complied with (including food premises)	...	...	...	...	...	149

Visits to :—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	16
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	25
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	35
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	53
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	77
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	33
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	33
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	—
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	—
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	4
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	—
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	25
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	3
Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drains partly re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rat infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	16

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the Year 1945.

Details of work completed.	Total.
Roof renewed or repaired...	27
Chimney Stack repaired or renewed	2
Gutters repaired or renewed	13
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	11
External walls repaired or re-pointed	8
Dampness abated :—	
i. repairs to roof	26
ii. repairs to external walls	7
iii. repairs to gutters or rainwater pipes	8
iv. waterproofing of internal walls	3
v. Damp proof course provided	3
Permanent ventilation provided	2
Wall plaster repaired	23
Ceiling plaster repaired	24
Walls cleaned or redecorated	19
Ceilings cleaned or redecorated	21

Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sashcord provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	16
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Window and door sills repaired	...	...	...	...	...	—
Plinth provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Through ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Yard or passage surface paved	...	...	...	...	...	7
Firegrates or ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
New sink provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
New waste pipe to sink provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
Separate water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Washing copper repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wash-house rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilated food store provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food store repaired or improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous Housing items	...	...	...	...	...	5
Staircase handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wells repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water pumps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Chlorination plants provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Metafilters provided	...	...	...	...	...	—

Sanitary Conveniences.

Elsan Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Separate accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	11
New W.C.'s provided complete	...	...	...	...	...	7
New W.C. basin provided	...	...	...	...	...	16
W.C. cistern repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	15
W.C. compartment repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Closets limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	16
New pails to closets	...	...	...	...	...	21
Closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	21
Priyies Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	16

Drainage.

Drains examined	...	...	...	...	...	47
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	44
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	45
Premises drained to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	9
Soil pipe or vent-shaft repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspection chamber provided	...	...	...	...	...	21
Fresh air inlet fixed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Vent-shaft provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous draining items	...	...	...	...	...	—
New septic tanks provided	...	...	...	...	...	1

Nuisances.

Offensive accumulation removed	...	...	...	...	...	17
Nuisance from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	7
Smoke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	6

Shops and Offices.

No action was taken during the year.

Camping Sites.

No camps were established in the district during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no baths or pools subject to inspection in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

As in previous years in a few cases evidence of infestation was discovered during the year and appropriate measures of disinfection adopted.

SECTION D.

Housing.

As mentioned earlier in this report the Rural Housing Survey was commenced and by the close of the year a total of 567 houses had been visited and classified. It was unfortunate that Mr. Mayhew, who is very efficiently carrying out this survey, should have met with a motoring accident during the year which caused him to be indisposed for almost three months. Despite this set-back, however, up to the time of presenting this report to you, more than 1,000 houses have been visited and classified in accordance with the survey.

The percentages for Categories III and V of the total number of houses visited up to 31st December, 1945, is 41.9% and 38.8% respectively. This is a fairly high percentage of unsatisfactory houses encountered and if this should be maintained throughout the various parishes of the district it would appear that the Council may be faced, in the not too distant future, with quite a formidable housing programme.

It is to be deplored that the percentage of unfit houses is working out so high, yet it would nevertheless be sacrilege wherever practicable not to make every effort to preserve the picturesque appearance of the villages in this district. To the town dweller, accustomed to the long ribbon-like streets of drab houses, it affords much pleasure to them to pass through villages, like those in this area, which contain cottages built mainly of local stone and with thatched roofs which are not only picturesque but are of architectural interest. Every endeavour should be made, therefore, to preserve the pleasing appearance of the English countryside, not only for visitors, but as national and local inheritance.

In some villages there are groups of cottages which are badly sited and congested, badly planned and suffering from lack of sufficient light and ventilation. These may best be dealt with by demolition and clearance. If such action is taken and the structures demolished I am of the opinion that consideration should be given to rebuilding on the cleared sites which would prevent gaps or spaces being left which may become blots on the landscape by being used as rubbish dumps or even for the erection of unsatisfactory temporary buildings.

Should rebuilding take place on these sites which have been cleared I hope that consideration may be given to style in architecture which will conform with the existing local buildings. The front elevation, at least, of all new buildings could, I suggest, be faced with local stone so as to maintain as far as practicable the picturesque appearance, charm, and character of the village.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	914
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 1647
2	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	548
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 819
3		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation —
4		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	106

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 115
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a)	By Owners —
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners —

(b) **Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—**

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 106
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners 17
- (b) By local Authority in default of owners —

(c) **Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

(d) **Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —

4. **HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART 4—OVERCROWDING.**

Present position not thoroughly investigated.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply and Control.

The present position regarding milk supply and control in the district still leaves much to be desired from a public health aspect and I think it is covered by the remarks on this subject submitted in my Annual Report for 1944.

It would involve the whole-time duties of a public health officer to adequately cope with the 214 premises in this area where milk is produced.

Total number of Cowkeepers on Register at 31.12.45 ... 214
59 produce designated milk, i.e. (14 "Tuberculin
Tested"; 45 "Accredited").

155 produce undesignated milk.

Of these Cowkeepers the number who retail milk
is 58.

12 retail designated milk, i.e. (5 "Tuberculin
Tested," 7 "Accredited").

46 retail undesignated milk.

The year brought 10 applications from persons requiring to carry on the trade of a cowkeeper in this district, 8 of which were granted. Two producers were promoted to the designated standard of "Tuberculin Tested."

During this period 3 Cowkeepers gave up business and have been removed from the Register.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 130 visits concerning clean milk production.

Results of 47 samples of milk taken in 1945 are as under :—
METHYLENE BLUE TEST.

Good, 15 (34 p.c.); Moderate, 10 (21 p.c.); Bad, 21 (45 p.c.).

PHOSPHATASE TEST.

1 sample of Pasteurised milk taken. Result—Satisfactory.

Comparative results of sampling (methylene blue test) over past 6 years :—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Good ...	25 (40%)	40 (55%)	31 (55%)	34 (64%)	37 (70%)
Moderate ...	14 (20%)	14 (19%)	12 (23%)	9 (17%)	13 (24%)
Bad ...	27 (40%)	19 (26%)	11 (22%)	10 (19%)	3 (5%)
Total taken	66	73	54	53	53

	1945
Good ...	15 (34%)
Moderate ...	10 (21%)
Bad ...	21 (45%)
Total taken	46

Following are details of food premises existing in the district together with the number of visits made during the year, viz.:—

	No. in District.	No. of Visits.
No. of Provision Shops	55	33
„ „ Butchers' Shops	13	28
„ „ Dining Rooms	—	—
„ „ Public Houses or Inns	39	33
„ „ Bakehouses	13	38
„ „ Registered Cowkeepers	214	130

Food and Drugs Act 1938.

There are 13 registered premises in the district which are affected by this Act, viz :—

13 Butchers' Premises.

Also there are 13 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the district and 1 Knacker's premises.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

There are 29 licensed slaughtermen in the district.

Meat and Foods Inspection.

The amount of food condemned during the year is set out in the following table.

Description.	Weight.	Disease or Condition.
Part of hindquarter of Beef	103lbs.	Decomposition
2 baskets Dates	2cwts. 9lbs.	Fermentation
Margarine	3lbs.	} Damaged by vermin
Butter	1lb. 12ozs.	
Dried Egg	12ozs.	
Bacon	12ozs.	
Oxo Cubes (14)	—	} Growth of mould
Pickles (16 jars)	—	
Tinned Food.		
Unsweetened Milk	14ozs.	} Perforated tins
Luncheon Meat	25lbs.	
	3cwts. 32lbs. 20zs.	

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cowshed cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	60
Accumulation of manure removed	...	...	...	...	30
Impervious floor provided	...	...	...	...	—
Additional ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	—
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	2
Dairy cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	54
Proper dairy provided	...	...	...	...	—
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	—
Additional lighting provided	...	...	...	...	—
Yard surfaces cleansed	...	...	...	...	—
Proper facilities for sterilizing	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	—

Slaughterhouses.

Slaughterhouse cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	14
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	—

Bakehouses.

Bakehouse cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	27
Benches cleansed	...	...	...	...	27
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	—

Food Preparing Premises, Shops, Stalls, Etc.

Premises cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	19
Benches etc., cleansed	...	...	...	...	8
Waste foodstuffs and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	2
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	4

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year there were 154 cases of infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified.

The following table sets forth the nature of the various diseases and shows the distribution of the cases throughout the parishes in the district.

(other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1945.

23

Period Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases—1945

A statement shewing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder :—

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	10
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	4	33	8	—	26	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	116
Whooping Cough	3	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Malaria	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Dysentery	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	7
Mumps	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Amoebiasis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	8	41	9	38	27	3	5	2	1	1	1	3	154

C—Civilian.

NC—Non-Civilian.

TUBERCULOSIS.

All new cases of tuberculosis, respiratory or non-respiratory, are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. Institutional care, when considered necessary, is arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health and County Tuberculosis Officer in the County Sanatoria.

The living conditions, etc., of persons subsequently discharged from these sanatoria are investigated by this Authority.

During the year 8 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 6 being of a respiratory nature and 2 non-respiratory. This shows a decrease of 4 as against a total of 12 cases which were notified in 1944.

The following table gives the incidence of new cases with their age distribution.

New Cases during 1945.

Age Periods Years	New Cases							
	Respiratory				Non-Respiratory			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	C.	NC.	C.	NC.	C.	NC.	C.	NC.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15 — 25	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 — 45	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	4	—	1	—	1	—

C—Civilian. NC.—Non-Civilian.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Age at 31.12.45 Year Born	Under 1		2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1936-40	1931-35	
Number Immunised	1	93	96	113	106	608	683	1700
Estimated Mid-Year Population	842					1370		
Percentage Immunised	50%					94%		

It is pleasing to note the continued acceptance of prophylaxis against Diphtheria which is now almost entirely the task of inoculating children at one year of age and giving a maintenance dose at five years on entry to school. The co-operative efforts of the Health Visitor, Miss Green, with the personal approach to parents at Infant Welfare Clinics has led to their successful efforts to combat the dreaded disease, Diphtheria. There has been only one case of the disease in the Rural District during 1945.

The figures quoted do not include children immunised by private arrangement between parents and local medical practitioners.

Scabies.

The patients with Scabies are usually treated at home by their own Doctor or by the Health Visitor. The Council has arranged with the County Council whereby patients who are below school age can be treated by the Health Visitor, the Council defraying the cost of materials used. In cases where home conditions are unsuitable for treatment the cases have been admitted to the Daintree Hospital, Daventry, for this purpose. In all instances where only part of the family is affected attempt is made to treat the whole family.

The Sanitary Inspector visits the cases for the supervision of standards of cleanliness. The clothing is usually despatched for disinfection.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Police Court Proceedings.

Despite every endeavour, made by the Health Department, to get the requirements of an abatement notice complied with without having to resort to legal action, it eventually became necessary to take the following proceedings :—

1. Court where heard. 2. Date of hearing. 3. Parties concerned.	Offence.	Result of Legal Action.
1. Brackley Petty Sessions. 2. 9.5.45 3. Brackley R.D.C. v. Mr. J. G. Fox.	Failure to abate a nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1936.	Fined £10 or in lieu two months' imprisonment.
1. Brackley Petty Sessions. 2. 4.7.45. 3. Brackley R.D.C. v. Mr. J. G. Fox.	as above	Given one month in which to pay fine of £10 and abate nuisance or go to prison for two months. Note. —On 1.8.45 Fox was sent to prison for two months for failure to pay fine.
1. Brackley Petty Sessions. 2. 10.10.45. 3. Brackley R.D.C. v. Mr. J. G. Fox.	as above	Fined £5 and £1.1.0 costs or one month's imprisonment in lieu.

D. J. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.



